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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/076,514	02/19/2002	Ludwig Volkel	52203	3431
26474	7590	07/29/2005	EXAMINER	
NOVAK DRUCE DELUCA & QUIGG, LLP			YOUNG, MICAH PAUL	
1300 EYE STREET NW			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
SUITE 400 EAST				
WASHINGTON, DC 20005			1618	

DATE MAILED: 07/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/076,514	VOLKEL ET AL.
	Examiner Micah-Paul Young	Art Unit 1618

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 May 2005.

2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 10-22 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2,4-8 and 10-22 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Acknowledgment of Papers Received: Amendment/Remarks dated 5/3/05.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 1,2,4-8, and 10-22 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combined disclosures of Spires (USPN 4,394,377 hereafter '377) and Klein et al (USPN 2,870,198 hereafter '198). The claims are drawn to a choline ascorbate formulation. The choline ascorbate is incorporated into a feed composition for ruminant animals.

4. The '377 discloses a feed for ruminant animals 'comprising crystalline choline salts made with organic and inorganic acids (abstract). According to '377, the crystalline salts including choline ascorbate are available commercially (col. 3, lin. 62 – col. 4, lin. 7). The crystals can be incorporated into ruminant animal supplement (col. 4, lin. 28 – 35, col. 14, lin. 4-13). '377 further discloses that organic solvents such as methanol and ethylene oxide are common within

Art Unit: 1618

the production of choline ascorbate (col. 3, lin. 49-55). This process of crystallization is well known in the art and can be seen in '198.

5. The '198 patent teaches the crystallization of choline salts (abstract). Isolation with ethylene oxide and trimethylamine, at low temperature (below 40⁰C) is well known in the art as seen in '198 (col. 2, lin. 18 – 59). Organic acids such as anhydrous citric acid are used in the reaction (examples). It would be within the level of skill in the art to produce the choline ascorbate of '377 by the process of '198 by substituting ascorbic acid as the organic acid.

6. With regard to claims reciting the diffraction characteristics of the compound, it is the position of the examiner that these characteristics would be inherent to the compound recited in the art. Presented here is a crystalline choline ascorbate free from water of crystallization, and processed from reacting ascorbic acid, trimethylamine and ethylene oxide, at a temperature below 40⁰C. Barring a showing of unexpected results or evidence to the contrary it is the position of the examiner that the compounds of the present invention and the compound recited by the art are identical, hence having identical properties including diffraction characteristics. The diffraction information claimed can be determined through routine experimentation by artisans of ordinary skill and do not impart patentability on the formulation.

7. Also the Office does not have the facilities for examining and comparing applicant's product with the product of the prior art in order to establish that the product of the prior art does not possess the same material structural and functional characteristics of the claimed product. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the claimed products are functionally different than those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. *See Ex parte Phillips*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1302, 1303 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. &

Int. 1993), *Ex parte Gray*, 10 USPQ2d 1922, 1923 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int.) and *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977).

8. With these things in mind one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to process choline ascorbate as seen in '198 in order to produce stable crystals that are anhydrous and have high levels of purity. It would have been obvious to combine these crystals resulting from the '198 patent with the ruminant animal feed formulations of '377 in order to produce an improved feed formulation. It would have been obvious to combine the teachings of these references in order to provide a feed composition with improved stability and nutritional value.

Response to Arguments

9. Applicant's arguments filed 5/3/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant argues that:

a. The teachings of '377 and '198 do not disclose the formulation of the instant claims.

10. Regarding argument a., it is the position of the Examiner that the teaching sand disclosures of the prior art provide sufficient suggestion to obviate the claimed invention. The claims are drawn to a choline ascorbate crystal with specific diffraction lines. Though the prior art is silent to these features, the choline ascorbate is produced in a similar way as that of the instant claims. The crystal is anhydrous and is formed by using organic solvents at low temperatures. The particular solvent can be determined through routine experimentation to determine the solvent combination that results in the best crystals. Barring evidence to the contrary it is the Examiner that the teachings of the organic water-miscible solvents obviates the instant claims. As discussed above the Office does not have the facilities for examining and

comparing applicant's product with the product of the prior art in order to establish that the product of the prior art does not possess the same material structural and functional characteristics of the claimed product. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, the burden is upon the applicant to prove that the claimed products are functionally different than those taught by the prior art and to establish patentable differences. *See Ex parte Phillips*, 28 U.S.P.Q.2d 1302, 1303 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int. 1993), *Ex parte Gray*, 10 USPQ2d 1922, 1923 (PTO Bd. Pat. App. & Int.) and *In re Best*, 562 F.2d 1252, 195 USPQ 430 (CCPA 1977). Barring a showing of unexpected results found regarding the particular process claimed, it is the position of the Examiner that the claims remain obviated by the prior art.

Conclusion

11. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Micah-Paul Young whose telephone number is 571-272-0608. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 7:00-4:30 every other Monday off.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K. Page can be reached on 571-272-0602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Micah-Paul Young
Examiner
Art Unit 1618


MP Young

THURMAN K. PAGE
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